

AskOxford: clamp

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## Compact Oxford English Dictionary

### clamp

• **noun** a brace, band, or clasp for strengthening or holding things together.

• **verb** 1 fasten in place or together with a clamp. 2 (clamp down) suppress or prevent something. 3 fit a wheel clamp to (an illegally parked car).

— DERIVATIVES **clamper** noun.

— ORIGIN probably Dutch and related to CLAM.

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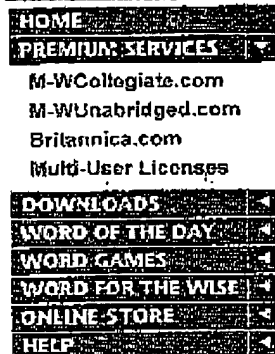
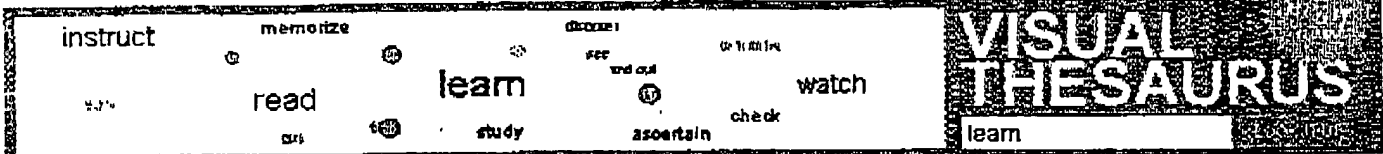


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clamp[1,noun]  
clamp[2,transitive verb]  
C-clamp  
clamp down

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Main Entry: <sup>2</sup>clampFunction: *transitive verb*

1 : to fasten with or as if with a clamp

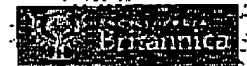
2 a : to place by decree : **IMPOSE** — often used with *on*  
<clamped on a curfew after the riots> b : to hold tightlyFor More Information on "clamp" go to [Britannica.com](http://Britannica.com)

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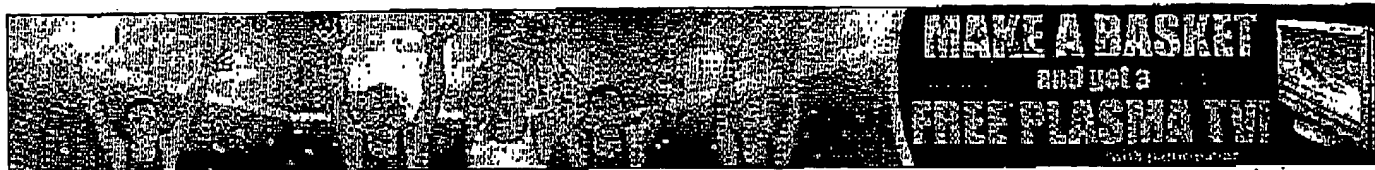


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**clamp** <sup>1</sup> ☐ [Pronunciation Key](#) (klāmp)  
n.

1. Any of various devices used to join, grip, support, or compress mechanical or structural parts.
2. Any of various tools with opposing, often adjustable sides or parts for bracing objects or holding them together.

*tr.v.* **clamped, clamp-ing, clamps**

1. To fasten, grip, or support with or as if with a clamp.
2. To establish by authority; impose: *clamped a tax on imports.*

**Phrasal Verb:**  
**clamp down**

To become more strict or repressive; impose controls: *clamping down on environment polluters.*

[Middle English, from Middle Dutch *klampe*.]

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Source: *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*

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**clamp** (klämp)*n.*

An instrument for the compression or grasping of a structure.

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Houghton Mifflin Company.

**Main Entry: <sup>1</sup>clamp**

Pronunciation: 'klämp

Function: *noun*

: any of various instruments or appliances having parts brought together for holding or compressing something; *especially* : an instrument used to hold, compress, or crush vessels and hollow organs and to aid in surgical excision of parts

Source: Merriam-Webster Medical Dictionary, © 2002 Merriam-Webster,  
Inc.

**Main Entry: <sup>2</sup>clamp**Function: *transitive verb*

: to fasten with or as if with a clamp <the ligaments are *clamped* as usual and all excess stump is cut off flush with the hysterectomy clamp —R. C. Long>

Source: Merriam-Webster Medical Dictionary, © 2002 Merriam-Webster,  
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**clamp**

*n* : a device (used by carpenters) that holds things firmly together *v* 1: fasten or fix with a clamp; "clamp the chair together until the glue has hardened" 2: impose or inflict forcefully; "The military government clamped a curfew onto the capital"

Source: WordNet ® 2.0, © 2003 Princeton University

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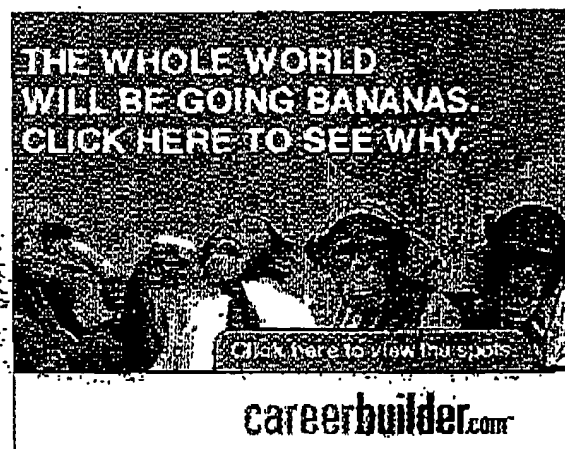
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